PLANNING COMMISSION CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN MAYOR



February 13, 2008

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The Honorable Barbara Marshall, Chair and Members Honolulu City Council 530 South King Street, Room 202 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Marshall and Councilmembers:

Subject: Late Testimony Received--Bill to Amend Chapter 21, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990 (The Land Use Ordinance), Relating to Transit-Oriented Development

The Planning Commission received written testimony from the American Planning Association after the public hearing had been closed on the Transit-Oriented Development Bill. As the public hearing has been closed and the commission's recommendation is already being transmitted to the City Council, I am forwarding their testimony to you for your information and consideration.

Very truly yours,

lenry Eng, FACP, Drector

Department of Planning and Permitting

HE:pk

Attachments

APPROVED:

Wayne M. Hashiro, P.E. Managing Director

DEPT. COM. _

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hawai'i chapter of the american planning association p.o. box 557 honolulu hawai'i 96809 www.hawaiiapa.org

December 7, 2007

Chair Karin Holma and Members of the City and County of Honolulu Planning Commission c/o Department of Planning and Permitting 750 South King Street, 7th Floor Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony on Transit-Oriented Development

The Hawai'i Chapter of the American Planning Association supports the drawbill initiated by the Department of Planning and Permitting related to transit-oriented development. We would like to suggest the following modifications which we believe would strengthen this bill.

1. Provide a definition of "transit-oriented development" in the bill; for example:

Transit-oriented development (TOD) is development with a functional relationship to transit allowing it to achieve synergies that are more efficient and cost effective by contributing to increased ridership. TOD implies collaboration between interests that converge at transit stations, including the transit agency, the local government, private developers, residents, workers and riders.

TOD may be any commercial, retail, office, residential and other physical development around transit stations which takes advantage of the foot traffic of transit riders, and which is oriented and designed to integrate with the transit operations in a way that increases ridership. This creates a symbiotic relationship. TOD development is generally compact and dense; it includes a mix of uses and it is designed with high-quality, pedestrian-oriented urban design streetscapes.

- 2. Expand on the benefits of TOD in the purpose and intent section of the bill; for example:
 - Provide mobility choices.
 - Increase public safety by creating active places throughout the day.
 - Increase transit ridership.
 - Reduce rates of vehicle miles traveled.
 - Increase households' disposable income by reducing transportation costs.
 - Reduce air pollution and energy consumption rates.
 - Conserve resource lands and open space by encouraging compact development.
 - Decrease local infrastructure costs through more compact development.
 - Stimulate economic development.
 - Contribute to more affordable housing.
 - Promote public health by encourage walking.
- 3. Clarify that the TOD zoning adopted as part of the neighborhood plan will override existing zoning in areas that are already special districts, such as in Waikīkī, and whether it will also override subdivision regulations. We believe the latter is particularly important with respect to land assembly and the design of streets.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. APA Hawaii Chapter remains committed to working with the City towards the successful rebuilding of Honolulu through transit.

founded in 1962, the hawai'i chapter has over 300 members, including planning officials, public and private sector planners, and community advocates. on the major islands across the state

e mālama pono i ka 'āina; nănă mai ke ola take good care of the land; it grants you life

Ralph Portmore, AICP Chapter President

Cheryl D. Soon, FAICP

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John P. Whalen, FAICP Co-Chairs. Transit Committee